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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE  
OF CORRESPONDENCE, 1759-'70.**

From the Originals in the Virginia State Archives.

(CONTINUED)

[It is to be regretted that the valuable series of papers containing the proceedings of the Virginia Committee of Correspondence is incomplete. Only two papers are preserved of the period between July 28, 1764, and November 9, 1769. These two documents contain the proceedings of the Committee on December 19, 1764, and September 14, 1765, and were printed in this magazine, Vol. X, 353-360.]

[Endorsement.]

LETTERS OF MONTAGU, 1770.

Lond<sup>o</sup>, Nov' 9, 1769.

Gentlemen,—I have nothing to communicate to the Committee but That the Parliament will not meet till the middle of January. We still continue to entertain the most sanguine Hopes that you will be perfectly satisfy'd with their Proceedings respecting America.

I have the Honor to be Gent.,

Y<sup>r</sup> most obed<sup>t</sup> faithfull Serv<sup>t</sup>,

EDW'D MONTAGU.

Lond<sup>o</sup>, Jan' 10, 1770.

Gentlemen,—I have the Honor to send you inclosed his Majesty's Speech on meeting the fullest Parliament I ever rememb<sup>r</sup>.

Notwithstanding that part of it which animadverts on the Conduct of America is not couch'd in the most moderate Terms, yet if there is any Faith in Men when they become Ministers I have no Doubt of your obtaining the promised Relief.

In the Course of yesterday's Debate on the form of the Address very little was said about America. The Attention of those Lords who are at present in Opposition was wholly en-

gaged by the Midd<sup>s</sup> Election,\* & the Debate was almost confin'd to a proposed Amendment of the Address, introducing some Censures on the House of Com'ns for their Determinat<sup>n</sup> on that Matter.

Lord Chancellor,† Lord Chatham, Lord Shelbourne take the Lead in opposition & appear to retain their original Ideas, with respect to the Rights of America, but avoided entring into the least Consideration of the State of it till they were more fully inform'd what its Proceedings had been, what Measures had been taken by Administration & what Plan they now proposed. They all insisted "That nothing would effectually restore Harmony but ye replacing you in the identical Spot from whence you was unhappily taken. That if the King's Servants really intended to redress your Grievances the Words of the Speech were rather too harsh. That they were at present uninform'd what Measures you had pursued so highly *unwarrantable*. That they condemned all outrageous & violent Proceedings & hoped they ceased universally; but if by unwarrantable Measures was meant Combinations & mutual Agreements to be content without the Manufactures of the Mother Country the Censure was improper & too severe, because nothing deserved to be deem'd highly unwarrantable but what is illegal." But those Sentiments were only thrown out in a cursory Way & not intended to be made Matters of Debate, therefore not answer'd by Administration.

From the Proceedings of yesterday, I plainly perceive that Lord Chancellor cannot long continue in Office unless a total Change of Administration takes Place, of which I do not see the least Probability. I imagine the first Subject of Deliberation will be America & you may depend on our utmost Efforts to obtain Relief for it in the most extensive Degree.

I am with great Respect, Gent<sup>l</sup>,

Y<sup>r</sup> most faithfull & obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>,

EDW'D MONTAGU.

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\* The famous election case of John Wilkes.

† Lord Camden.

[ENCLOSURE IN THE LETTER OF JAN. 10TH, 1770.]

The Amendm<sup>t</sup> propos'd by L<sup>d</sup> Chatham to the Address.

"And for that Purpose we will with all convenient Speed take into our most serious Consideration a late Proceeding of the House of Com<sup>'</sup>ons touching the Election of John Wilkes Esq<sup>r</sup> a Member of that House & his Expulsion therefrom, whereby the Freeholders of the County of Midd<sup>x</sup> have been deprived of their Right of Election."

I send the above only for the Curiosity of such Gentlemen who want to know what passes among us. The Objection to it, was "That the Admission of such a Clause must necessarily be attended with a Breach of Harmony between both Houses, as the Comons would never suffer the Lords to interfere in matters of Elections in which they have ever claim'd & maintain'd the sole Jurisdiction."

On a Division the Ministry carry'd the Question 98 ag<sup>t</sup> 36. In the Com<sup>'</sup>ons, Two to one.

In Consequence of the Part Lord Chancellor has taken the great Seal is to be removed, as soon as a Successor is fixt on, which every one imagines will be M<sup>r</sup> York.

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[MONTAGUE TO COMMITTEE.]

London, Jan<sup>y</sup> 15, 1770.

Gentlemen,—The Gentleman to whose Care I com<sup>'</sup>itted his Majesty<sup>s</sup> Speech being still here & intending to go in the Randolph Cap<sup>t</sup> Walker, gives me an Opportunity of sending you the Addresses of both Houses.

I am Gent<sup>l</sup>, Your most obd<sup>t</sup> Servant,

EDW<sup>d</sup> MONTAGU.

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[MONTAGUE TO COMMITTEE.]

Lond<sup>n</sup>, Jan<sup>y</sup> 18, 1770.

Gent,—I have just received Intelligence from one of the Lords of the Treasury that a Body of very respectable & opulent Gentlemen have made a Proposal & offer'd a satisfactory Sum for the Grant of Lands\* in your Colony which form your Frontier;

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\* Immediately after the peace of 1763, a plan was suggested for settling the lands on the Ohio river. During that year a pamphlet was

from the best Discription I can get, "They are to the Southward Westward of the Pennsylvania Line, down the Ohio & to

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published in London entitled *The Advantages of a Settlement upon the Ohio in North America*, in which the subject was ably argued.

In the year 1766, William Franklin, Governor of New Jersey, and Sir William Johnson, Indian Agent for the Northern Colonies, proposed a scheme for establishing a new colony on the Ohio. They wrote to Dr. Franklin, who was then in London, requesting his agency to procure a grant for that purpose, including land which Virginia believed to be entirely within her chartered boundaries. He pressed the application for more than a year; but the change of ministers, and the contending interests of individuals prevented its success, and the project seems to have been suspended until 1770, when it was renewed.

At the head of the company, then organized, was Thomas Walpole, an eminent banker of London. Other prominent members were Thos. Pownall, Mr. Franklin, and Samuel Wharton. They had a strenuous opponent in Lord Hillsborough, who wrote a report to the Board of Trade hostile to their petition, though it would seem that his hostility did not show itself in the first stages of the application. This report was answered by Dr. Franklin, in "one of the ablest tracts ever penned." It was so conclusive and satisfactory that the petition was granted by the King in Council, notwithstanding the opposition of the Board of Trade. (*Spark's Writings of Washington*, II, Appendix VII.)

George Mason, who was one of the leading members of the "Ohio Company," replied to Franklin, in 1773, in a paper entitled "Extracts from the Virginia Charters, with some Remarks on them." This has been styled "An Unanswerable Exposition of Colonial rights under the Charters." Franklin's pamphlet had denied the right of Virginia to the land in question.

The new company was called the Grand, or Walpole Company, and the new colony was to be named Vandalia. As the proposed grant was to lie between the Alleghanies and a line drawn from Cumberland Gap to a point opposite the mouth of the Sciota, it will be seen that Virginia had good cause for alarm.

On April 15, 1770, Washington wrote to Lord Dunmore, stating that, in his opinion, the success of the Walpole petition would be a fatal blow to the interests of Virginia, and that the bounds of the grant, "if obtained upon the extensive plan proposed, will comprehend at least four-fifths of the land, for the purchase and survey of which this government has lately voted two thousand five hundred pounds sterling." Lord Hillsborough conceived the plan to be "altogether as unnecessary as it is impolitic." In spite of all opposition, however, on August 14, 1772, the King in Council ordered the grant to be made. The increasing troubles of the time prevented the plan from being carried out.

the Mouth of big Conhaway & with the main Branches of the said River to the Mountains; then with the Mountains to the chief Waters of the River Monongahela & with them to the beginning."

It is proposed to erect a separate Government & least it sho<sup>d</sup> operate in any Degree to your Prejudice, collectively or individually, I have enter'd a Caveat at the Board of Trade to whom it will of Course be refer'd for Consideration. When it comes there I shall desire a Suspension of the Plan till you have Notice of it, & can transmit to me your Approbation or Objections. I find that one of the great Inducements to the Treasury<sup>a</sup> Assent to the Proposition is that the Distance of this Country is so great from the present Seat of Government that Justice & Order can never take Place (sho<sup>d</sup> it be completely settled) without forming a new Government there.

I have the Honor to be Gent.,

Y<sup>r</sup> most obed<sup>t</sup> humble Serv<sup>t</sup>,

EDW<sup>d</sup> MONTAGU.

M<sup>r</sup> Yorke<sup>\*</sup> has accepted the Seals & is created Baron Morden.

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Bancroft has summarized the conflict in regard to this matter : " Virginia resisted the proposed limitation of her jurisdiction as fatal to her interests; earnestly entreating an extension of her borders westward to the Tennessee river. It would be tedious to rehearse the earnest pleas of the Colony; the hesitation of Hillsborough, who wished to pacify the people, and yet to confine her settlements; the adverse representations of the Board of Trade; the meetings of the Agents with the Beloved men of the Cherokees. On the seventeenth of October, two days after the death of Botetourt, a treaty conforming to the decision of the British Cabinet was made at the Congress of Lochaber [South Carolina] confining the Ancient Dominion on the northwest to the mouth of the Kanawha, while on the south it extended only to within six miles of the Holston River."

\* Charles Yorke, son of Philip, Earl of Hardwicke (formerly Lord Chancellor of England), was appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal and Lord Chancellor on January 17, 1770, in the place of Lord Camden. On the 22d of the same month the new Chancellor committed suicide.

[ENCLOSURE IN LETTERS OF JANUARY 18TH, 1770, AND ENCLOSED IN LETTER OF FEB. 6TH, 1770.]

To the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lords Com<sup>rs</sup> for Trade & Plantat<sup>ns</sup> :

The humble Petit<sup>n</sup> of Edw<sup>d</sup> Montagu, Agent for Virg<sup>a</sup>,  
Sheweth,

That your Pet<sup>r</sup> is informed "An Application has been made to the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lords of Treasury for a Grant of certain Lands in & part of his Majesty<sup>s</sup> Colony & Dominion of Virginia." That the Consideration tender'd to their Lord<sup>sh</sup> is satisfactory & that such Proposition is refer'd to your Lord<sup>sh</sup> for your Deliberation as to the Policy & Expediency of such a Measure, & whether it may not be necessary to sever such Lands from the said Colony & erect a new & distinct Governm<sup>t</sup> thereof.

That y<sup>r</sup> Pet<sup>r</sup> is advised no less than 1,350,000 Acres of such Land have been already granted, partly to a Society of Gentleman called the Ohio Company,\* & partly to Individuals of that

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\* In 1748, Thomas Lee, of "Stratford," Westmoreland Co., Va., then a member of the Council and in the next year president of that body and acting governor, formed the design of effecting settlements west of the Alleghany Mountains, through the agency of an association of gentlemen. With a view of carrying his plan into operation, he associated himself with twelve other persons in Virginia and Maryland, and with John Hanbury, a London merchant. The association was called "The Ohio Company." The members, in addition to Lee and Hanbury, were Thos. Nelson, Col. Cresap, Col. Wm. Thornton, Wm. Nimmo, Daniel Cresap, John Carlyle, Lawrence Washington, Augustine Washington, George Fairfax, Jacob Giles, Nathaniel Chapman and Joseph Woodrup. Other members who joined later were, Governor Dinwiddie, George Mason, John Mercer and his three sons, George, James and John Francis, Richard Lee, of "Lee Hall," Thos. Ludwell Lee, Philip Ludwell Lee, John Tayloe, Gawin Corbin, Presley Thornton, Rev. James Scott, and Lomax.

Mr. Hanbury presented to the King the petition of the company, and by order in the Council, dated March 16, 1749, it was granted. The concession was to consist of 500,000 acres of land west of the Alleghanies and between the Monongahela and the Kanawha, though part of the land might be taken up north of the Ohio. Two hundred thousand acres were to be selected immediately. The company was to pay no quit rents for ten years; but was to settle one hundred families at once, to build a fort at their own expense, and to maintain a garrison in it for defence against the Indians.

Colony, who caused the same to be survey'd & before the Comencemen<sup>t</sup> of the late War had made some Progress in the settling and Cultivation thereof, but having been driven from their Possessions by the Indians since restrain'd from returning by his Majesty<sup>'s</sup> Proclamation they have not yet been restored to their just Rights.

That your Pet<sup>r</sup> conceiving his Constituents totally ignorant of such Application to the Lords of Treasury & that their Lordships are uninformed of the Circumstances above stated, humbly submits it to your Lordships Wisdom & Justice whether before any farther Proceedings is had on the Subject refer'd to your Lordships the Colony of Virginia sho<sup>d</sup> not have Notice, & Time given to offer such Objections as may occur ag<sup>t</sup> the Completion of such Grant.

Y<sup>r</sup> Pet<sup>r</sup> therefore humbly prays y<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>sh</sup> will represent to the Lords of Treasury that it seems reasonable & just the Col<sup>y</sup> of Virginia sho<sup>d</sup> have Advice of an Application which if approved wo<sup>d</sup> be attended with a Severance of so large a part of its Dominion & affect the Right of many who under Grants already obtained conceive themselves entitled to so large a Portion of the Lands apply'd for. E. M.

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Cargoes of goods to the value of £4000 were ordered by the Company and Christopher Gist, a noted pioneer, was employed to examine and survey the lands. A few families were settled under the auspices of the Ohio Company, but its affairs never prospered, and the French and Indian war caused a total suspension of operations. After the conclusion of that struggle, the Company appears never to have been able to take any vigorous action towards occupying the lands which had been granted, and the claims to military bounty lands under Dunmore's proclamation of 1763, as well as the influence of the proprietors of the *Walpole Grant* proved obstacles which could not be overcome.

George Mercer was six years in England as the agent of the Company, but his efforts in its behalf were without effect. At last, entirely without any authority from his principals, but apparently thinking it the best that could be done, he agreed to merge the Ohio with the Grand or Walpole Company. His action was disowned by the first named company; but the Revolutionary war, which extinguished both companies put an end to the struggle between them.

See Miss Rowland's *Life of George Mason; Sparks's Writings of Washington*, II, Appendix VI, and the *Wm. and Mary Quarterly*, I, 197-203, (by Miss Kate Mason Rowland), and V, 129-131 (by Col. Thos. H. Ellis).



## [MONTAGUE TO COMMITTEE.]

London, Feb<sup>y</sup> 6, 1770.

Gentlemen,—My two last Letters to you were of the 10th & 18th of Jan<sup>y</sup> the first attended with the King's Speech on meeting his Parliam<sup>t</sup>, the other relating to an Application to the Treasury for a Grant of a very large Tract of your Lands that form your Frontier. Very great & opulent Persons are combined in this Attempt, & it has been conducted with so much secrecy, that till the Treasury had agreed on the Consideration, nobody knew of the Negotiation. The Instant I discovered it, I enter'd my Caveat at the Board of Trade. The Proposition is now arrived there for Consideration as to the Policy of the Design. I have presented my Petition of which I send you a Copy, and as I have no Doubt of its Effect you will be so good to furnish me with your Objections in Case you think the Plan liable to any.

Not a Word yet has passed in Parliament about the American Greivances. The only Object of Attention is the Middlesex Election. Our Merchants in London have been extreme shy, & very unwilling to take the Lead in an Affair, as interesting to them as America. We have prevailed on the Gentlemen of Bristol to begin. They had a meeting & have transmitted to one of their Representatives an Account of Conditional Orders from North America to the Amount of £200,000. The Londoners have at last followed their Example & at a very numerous Meeting last Week unanimously resolved to petition the House of Com<sup>'</sup>ons for a Repeal of the Act that imposes Duties on Paper, Glass, Painters Colours, & Tea. They have likewise collected the several Amounts of the condit<sup>'</sup> Orders which when produced to the Publick must be alarming. To day (If no other Business interferes) Lord North intends to move for a Repeal\* of so much of the Act as extends to the three first Articles, retaining the odious Preamble and the Duty on Tea. If the Debate is carry'd on dispassionately I have no Doubt about a total Repeal, but if Abuse & Invective sho<sup>d</sup> start, the Metal of both

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\* In March, 1770, all the duties on America imports, save that on tea, were repealed.

sides of the House is so violent, that I fear their own true Interest will be forgot.

Two Events of Importance have happen'd in this Country since my last Letter. The Death of the new Chancellor, M<sup>r</sup> Yorke within three days after his Appointment & the sudden & unexpected Resignation of the Duke of Grafton.

I intend this by the New York Mail tomorrow; if your Business comes on in the House to day, I shall add what may occur.

The Parl<sup>t</sup> have passed a Bill to allow Ireland and America to continue their Importation of Provisions in England Duty free.

I am

Gent. with great Respect.

Y<sup>r</sup> very obed<sup>t</sup> faithfull Serv<sup>t</sup>

EDW<sup>d</sup> MONTAGU.

P. S. The Pontefract Election came on to day, & nothing was done in American Business, but presenting the Merchants Petition, which is order'd for Consideration on Monday.

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[MONTAGUE TO COMMITTEE.]

Lond<sup>o</sup>, Feb. 8, 1770.

Gentlemen,—I had the Honor to acquaint you on Wednesday by the New York Mail that we had prevailed on the Merchants of London to stand forth in their Own the Cause of America, & that they had presented to the House of Com<sup>'</sup>ons a Petition, the Purport of which is, "That they have been accustom'd to carry on very considerable Branches of Trade to & from the North American Colonies, the former consisting greatly in exporting the Manufactures of this Country & the latter in importing from thence raw Materials of various kinds necessary to the Support of our most important Manufactories, & that the Trade with America has occasioned yearly the Importation & Remittance to this Country of Bullion & Bills of Exchange of great Value, from different Parts of the World in Payment for such American Comodities as would be super-abundant here or

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Augustus Henry Fitz Roy, third Duke of Grafton, first lord of the treasury and at the head of the ministry, resigned January 28, 1770, and was succeeded by Lord North.

are by Acts of Parl<sup>t</sup> generally forbid to be imported, which Commodities may justly be consider'd as having great Weight in the Comercial Balance of Europe; & that this Commerce so necessary to afford Employ<sup>m</sup><sup>t</sup> & Subsistence to the Manufacturers of these Kingdoms, to augment the Publick Revenue, to serve as a Nursery to Seamen & to support & increase our Navigat<sup>n</sup> & maritime Strength, is at present in an alarming State of Suspension; and that the Interruption of this Trade is apprehended to be owing to certain Duties imposed on Tea, Paper, Glass, & Paint<sup>n</sup> Colours & therefore presumed to lay the distressed Situation of this Trade before the House & for the Recovery of so important a Branch of Commerce they have pray'd such Relief as the House shall think proper."

This Petition is refer'd for Consideration of a Com<sup>'</sup>ee of the whole House on Monday.

I am with great Respect, Gent<sup>a</sup>,

Y<sup>r</sup> most obed<sup>t</sup> & faithfull Servant,

EDW'D MONTAGU.

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[MONTAGUE TO COMMITTEE.]

Lond<sup>o</sup>, March 3d, 1770.

Gentlemen,—I was in hopes that I should have long since made you acquainted with the Determinations of Parliament on the Rights & Claims of America, but the Discussion of that important Concern has been defer'd for Matters of a less serious Nature. It now stands appointed for Monday in the House of Com<sup>'</sup>ons, but we have no Certainty of its coming on, & therefore I shall not defer mentioning to you an Attempt that has lately been made by a few interested Merchants to procure an Act of Parliam<sup>t</sup> for reducing the Bounty granted on the Importation of Tar, Pitch & Turpentine from America.

They had obtain'd the Approbation of the Treasury & it had been refer'd to the Board of Trade for Consideration who had represented their Approbation in general Terms. The Design having got Wind, the Agents of the Southern Colonies have presented a Memorial to prevent the Progress of it, & I dare say the Board of Trade will not allow it to proceed. I send you herewith a Copy.

In my last I had the Honor to communicate to you the Substance of the Merchants Petition for repealing the Duty Act; in my next I hope to give you the Fullest Satisfaction as to its Effect.

I am with the utmost Respect Gentlemen,

Y<sup>r</sup> most faithfull & obed<sup>t</sup> Servant,

EDW<sup>d</sup> MONTAGU.

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[ENCLOSURE IN LETTER OF MARCH 3RD, 1770.]

To the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lords Com<sup>rs</sup> for Trade & Plantations.  
The Mem<sup>t</sup> of

Edw<sup>d</sup> Montague Provincial Agent for Virginia. Cha<sup>s</sup> Garth  
Provincial Agent for S. Carolina. H. C. McCulloh Pro-  
vincial Agent for N. Carolina, Humbly sheweth:

That an application has been made to y<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>sh</sup> proposing several Reductions in the bounties now paid on Tar, Pitch & Turpentine imported from the Plantations & that y<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>sh</sup> have been pleased to express your approbation thereof generally.

Your Memorialists humbly conceive that if the said Reductions take place it will not only tend to the great Injury of the Planter in America & the Merchant here but it will also have very pernicious Consequences to the publick Interests of these Kingdoms.

That such a Regulation must be of great Importance & Extent & deeply affect Numbers of his Majesty<sup>s</sup> Subjects both in this Kingdom & in America who, though essentially interested, were neither Partn<sup>s</sup> nor Privies to the said Application.

That by ye Act of ye 6th of his present Majesty the Bounties on Tar &c. are continued till the Year 1779. That the Reasons on which the said Act was passed continue in full force & that to repeal certain Bounties granted for a certain Term, is contrary to all precedent & in some Degree to the faith of Parliament.

Y<sup>r</sup> Mem<sup>ts</sup> therefore pray that y<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>sh</sup> will be pleased to permit this matter to be reconsidered & that no Bill may be bro<sup>gt</sup> into Parl<sup>t</sup> under the Sanction of your Lord<sup>sh</sup> Approbation for reducing the Bounties granted by the said Act of the 6th of his present Majesty.

And y<sup>r</sup> Mem<sup>ts</sup>, &c., &c.

## [MONTAGUE TO COMMITTEE.]

Lond<sup>o</sup>, March 6th, 1770.

Gentlemen,—The House of Comons have at last taken up the Consideration of the unhappy Contest between Great Britain & her Colonys.—The Petition of the Merch<sup>ts</sup> was yesterday call'd for & read. Lord North then enter'd largely into a Representation of the present State & Temper of America & if any Credit is due to the sev<sup>l</sup> Letters he produced from L<sup>d</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Hutchinson & from sev<sup>l</sup> Persons at New York & the Jerseys, "the Combinat<sup>n</sup> for Non-Importation are giving way throughout the Continent, the People of most Property & best Understanding are most heartily sick of the Contest & languish for a Reconciliation & that there would be an immediate End of all Discontent, was it not kept alive by Letters of the most flagitious & inflammatory nature from Persons of distinguish'd Rank in this Country, whose Ambition & Resentment carry them the most dangerous Lengths.—He then, as last Year, express'd his Disapprobation of the Act in Question, not on the Ground of Right (which he never could entertain a Moment<sup>o</sup> Doubt of), but as being in its nature anti-comercial, & upon that Consideration & that only, he sho'd propose to the House a Repeal of so much of the Act, as imposed Dutys on Paper, Glass & Paint<sup>ed</sup> Colours." My Lord Mayor urged "a total Repeal on two Considerations, as he was very apprehensive that, without it, perfect Satisfaction wo<sup>d</sup> not prevail in America & that the Duty imposed on Tea was a Breach of the Contract enter'd into between Government & the East India Company whereby it was stipulated that on certain Conditions acceded to by the Company Teas were to be exported to America free of all Duty, which they conceived would put an effectual Stop to Smuggling."—Gov<sup>r</sup> Pownall join'd in my Lord Mayor's Proposition & moved for an Amendment of Lord North's Motion by adding the Word "Tea."—This brought on a general Debate & discover'd in the House three different Opinions. Some were for the partial Repeal as proposed by Governm<sup>t</sup>, others for a total Repeal; & others for no Repeal at all. Of the latter Class you may easily conceive M<sup>r</sup> Greenville was the Leader & having

given his Sentim<sup>ts</sup> to that Effect left the House with his followers, not chosing by his Presence to give Countenance to any part of the Measure proposed.—After a warm Debate & much abusive Altercation (which unhappily prevails to an excess in both Houses) they divided about 12 on Gov<sup>r</sup> Pownall<sup>s</sup> proposed Amendment, for which we told 142 ag<sup>t</sup> 204.—The main Question being then put we had no Division upon it, so that a Bill will be instantly brought in agreeable to Lord North<sup>s</sup> Motion.

By my Letter of the 31st of May last I told you this was all you must expect.—I had afterwards some reasons to apprehend a Change of Administration might have taken Place & your Wishes might have been more extensively gratify'd, but the Alterations which have happen'd add Strength to those who are most tenacious of the Authority of Parliament, & I am apprehensive you must consider this Concession as their Ultimatum.—As to the Duty retain'd on Tea, it seems extreme probable that the East India Company who are now in Treaty with Government on that Subject, will insist on a total Exemption from Duty on that Comodity on Exportation to America. Hints of that Design came from the Treasury Bench & no Intention on their parts appear'd in Opposition to it.

I have the Honor to be Gentlemen,

Y<sup>r</sup> most faithfull & obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>,

EDW<sup>d</sup> MONTAGU.

(TO BE CONTINUED)